

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00

SCA-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 /079 W

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O R 031707Z DEC 76

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3991

AMEMBASSY BANKGOK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC HONOLULU

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJ: UNHCR PROTESTS FORCIBLE RETURN OF CAMBODIAN

REFUGEES FROM THAILAND

REF: GENEVA 9534

DEPUTY UNCHR DELEVERED FOLLOWING NOTE TO THAI CHARGE
IN GENEVA THIS DATE (3 DEC 1976):

QUOTE: THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THAILAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA AND HAS THE HONOUR TO REFER TO THE DISCUSSIONS WHICH THE HIGH COMMISSIONER HAD WITH MR. CHUAY KANNAWAT, CHARGE D'AFFAIRES, PERMANENT MISSION OF THAILAND, ON 30 NOVEMBER AND ITS NOTE VERBALE DATED

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30 NOVEMBER 1976.

ACCORDING TO THE RECENT INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER, THE FORCIBLE RETURN OF THE 26 DISPLACED PERSONS DID ACTUALLY TAKE PLACE, EVEN THOUGH THESE DISPLACED PERSONS HAD BEEN FITTED FROM THE ASSISTANCE OF THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER DURING THEIR FOUR TO FIVE WEEKS TEMPORARY STAY IN THAILAND, AND IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT IN THE MEANTIME TWO OF THEM HAD ACTUALLY BEEN ACCEPTED FOR RESETTLEMENT BY FRANCE.

IN THIS CONNECTION, THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER WOULD LIKE TO DRAW THE ATTENTION OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THAILAND TO THE FOLLOWING:

THE PRINCIPLES GENERALLY RECOGNIZED AND ACCEPTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY EMBODIED, INTER ALIA, IN ARTICLE 3 OF THE DECLARATION ON TERRITORIAL ASYLUM ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS BY ITS RESOLUTION 2312 (XXII) IN 14 DECEMBER 1967, STIPULATE THAT NO ASYLUM SEEKER MAY BE EXPelled OR COMPULSORILY RETURNED TO A COUNTRY WHERE HE MAY BE SUBJECTED TO PERSECUTION. THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER WISHES, IN ADDITION, TO REFER TO THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED IN BANGKOK ON 13 SEPTEMBER 1975 BY THE ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT AND THE OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER WHICH STATES, INTER ALIA, THAT THE ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT ADHERES TO THE BASIC PRINCIPLES GENERALLY ACCEPTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, INCLUDING THE PRINCIPLE OF NON-REFOULEMENT.

THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER DEEPLY REGRETS THEREFORE THAT THE ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT DID NOT ADHERE TO THE GENERALLY RECOGNIZED PRINCIPLE OF NON-REFOULEMENT AND TO THE SPIRIT OF THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE.

THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER ALSO DEPLORES THAT IT WAS NOT INFORMED BEFOREHAND OF THE INTENTION OF THE THAI AUTHORITIES TO RETURN THE DISPLACED PERSONS

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CONCERNED TO THEIR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN WHICH, OTHERWISE, WOULD HAVE ALLOWED THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES OF A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY SOLUTION TO THIS MATTER.

THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER MUST, THEREFORE, PROTEST TO THE ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT OVER THE FORCIBLE RETURN OF THE GROUP OF CAMBODIAN DISPLACED PERSONS TO

THEIR FATE; FURTHER, THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
EXPRESSES ITS CONFIDENCE THAT THE ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT
WILL MAKE THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS TO PREVENT THE
RECURRENCE OF SUCH A TRAGIC EVENT.

THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER AVAILS ITSELF
OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW TO THE PERMANENT MISSION OF
THAILAND THE ASSURANCES OF ITS HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.
UNQUOTE.CATTO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEES, REPATRIATION, POLITICAL ASYLUM
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976GENEVA09651
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760448-0180
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761276/aaaacnnw.tel
Line Count: 124
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ORM
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <16 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNHCR PROTESTS FORCIBLE RETURN OF CAMBODIAN
TAGS: SREF, TH, UNHCR
To: STATE BANGKOK
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006